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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

2 June 1973

STATEMENT BY
E (Kika) de la Garza, M C
15th District--Texas

Unity is the appropriate theme of the first conference of Democratic Spanish-surnamed elected officials. Unity is, first of all, an individual concept, attainable only by persons working together to attain common desired goals. What unity does not mean is that individuality should be submerged. Our party strength and our national strength are made possible by person-to-person participation in the democratic process at all levels and with many and varied points of view.

As a fourth generation Democrat from the banks of the Rio Grande in Mission, Texas, this is something I know from personal experience. A kid who once shined shoes on the streets of his home town made it to the Congress of the United States by the grace of God, our system of government, and the Democratic Party. Each person attending this unprecedented conference no doubt can tell a similar story.

It is appropriate that the meeting should be held in Washington, D.C., the seat of our Federal Government. Solutions to our problems must come up from local and state governmental units to the national level, unifying our people for the good of all.

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